

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 11-14 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for priority. Because the Applicants' claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

DRAWINGS

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has approved the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicants. The drawings comply with the requirements of the USPTO. No further action is necessary.

ACKNOWLEDEMENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner has acknowledged the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 has been received from the Examiner. No further action is necessary at this time.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Office Action objects to claim 14 as being in improper dependent form. Accordingly, dependent claim 14 as been rewritten in independent form to correspond with a tableting machine. Therefore, it is respectfully requested this objection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action rejects to the use of the term “and/or” in claims 1-3, 5 and 9 and rejects claim 14 for similar reasons noted above with regard to the objection of claim 14. Therefore, the claims have been amended not to use the term “and/or” and claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Jensen et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a safety bus system including a plurality of first bus-capable modules, each being connected to at least one sensor and at least one actuator, and in which the sensor is configured to sense operational characteristics of a respective machine component in an operating machine and the actuator is configured to actuate said respective machine component. The safety bus system also includes at least one second bus-capable module connected to at least one safety function, at least one bus controller configured to control the

respective machine components via the corresponding first bus-capable modules, and at least one bus line interconnecting the first and second bus-capable modules and the at least one bus controller. Further, when the safety function is selected, the bus-controller variably controls the respective machine components based on the sensed operational characteristics and a type of the safety function such that a number of various flexible safety concepts are applied the operating machine. Independent claim 14 includes similar features in a varying scope.

These features are supported at least by Fig. 1 and the corresponding description in the specification. For example, Fig. 1 illustrates a safety bus system including a plurality of first bus-capable modules (14), each being connected to at least one sensor (22) and at least one actuator (20), and in which the sensor (22) is configured to sense operational characteristics of a respective machine component in an operating machine (12) and the actuator (20) is configured to actuate the respective machine component. The safety bus system also includes at least one second bus-capable module (14) connected to at least one safety function (24), at least one bus controller (16) configured to control the respective machine components via the corresponding first bus-capable modules (14), and at least one bus line (18) interconnecting the first and second bus-capable modules (14) and the at least one bus controller (16). Further, when the safety function is selected, the bus-controller (16) variably controls the respective machine components based on the sensed operational characteristics and a type of the safety function such that a number of various flexible safety concepts are applied the (see also paragraph [025] in the specification).

On the contrary, as shown in Fig. 1, Jensen is merely directed to a plurality of zone control stations 120, 122, 124 and 126 that are used to change temperatures of fire zones 50, 52,

54 and 56 in a preheat furnace 10 by increasing or decreasing the capabilities of the burners 40, 42, 44 and 46. The only safety element disclosed in Jensen et al. is the limit block 176 shown in Fig. 2. However, the limit block 176 only includes high and low limit values in order to restrict the value of a signal 180 as required for safe operation of the furnace 10 (see column 7, lines 9-14, for examples). Thus, Jensen does not teach or suggest variably controlling the respective machine components based on the sense operational characteristics and a type of the safety function such that a number of various safety concepts are applied to the operating machine as claimed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claim 1 and each claims depending therefrom are allowable.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103 as unpatentable over Jensen in view of Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Similar comments apply to independent 14 as discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. That is, Jensen et al. does not teach or suggest the features regarding this safety function as claimed. AAPA also does not teach or suggest these features.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection also be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION


In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone David A. Bilodeau at (703) 205-8072 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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